Remarks

Upon entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 1-8 are pending in this application.

A marked-up version of the amended claims is included herein.

Election/Restriction

The Examiner withdrew claims 11-16 from consideration. Applicants cancel claims 11-16 herein without prejudice to pursuing the subject matter of claims 11-16 in the future. Applicants respectfully assert the election/restriction requirement is thus rendered moot.

Rejection under 35 USC § 112, 1st ¶

Claims 1-8 were rejected as allegedly containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains. The Examiner also asserted that the scope of prodrug was not adequately enabled.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's statement and position because one skilled in the art would be able to determine how to make the prodrugs from the structure of the claimed compounds. The specification on pages 12-13 defines "prodrug" and further, prodrugs of a compound may be routinely identified using techniques known in the art. See, e.g., Bertolini et al., *J. Med. Chem.* (1997), 40:2011-2016; Shan et al., *J. Pharm. Sci.* (1997), 86 (7):765-767; Bagshawe, *Drug Dev. Res.* (1995), 34:220-230; Bodor, *Advances in Drug Res.* (1984), 13:224-331; Bundgaard, *Design of Prodrugs* (Elsevier Press 1985); Larsen, *Design and Application of Prodrugs*, Drug Design and Development (Krogsgaard-Larsen et al. eds., Harwood Academic Publishers, 1991); Dear et al., *J. Chromatogr. B* (2000), 748:281-293; Spraul et al., *J. Pharmaceutical & Biomedical Analysis* (1992), 10 (8):601-605; and Prox et al., *Xenobiol.* (1992), 3 (2):103-112.

However, without agreeing to the Examiner's assertions and purely in the interests of expediting prosecution of this application, Applicants have removed the term "prodrug" from the claims. In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request that

the rejection under 35 USC §112, first paragraph, be withdrawn. Applicants reserve the right to revisit this issue by filing claims reciting this term in one or more continuing applications.

Applicants respectfully assert that amendment of claims 1-8 thus places these claims in condition for allowance.

Rejection under 35 USC § 112, 2nd ¶

Claims 1- 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C., second paragraph, for allegedly being indefinite in reciting the term "metabolite." The Examiner asserts that the claims are allegedly vague and indefinite in that the metes and bounds of the 'active metabolite' is unknown.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's statement and position. However, to expedite prosecution of this application, Applicants have removed the term "active metabolite" from the claims. In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, be withdrawn. Applicants reserve the right to revisit this issue by filing claims reciting this term in one or more continuing applications.

Applicants respectfully assert that amendment of claims 1-8 thus places these claims in condition for allowance.

Information Disclosure Statement

The Examiner stated that copies of the references cited in Applicants' Information Disclosure Statement(s) were not available, and that the references will be considered if a copy is provided.

Applicants are providing a copy of all non-patent references that are currently available. Applicants will provide copies of other cited references as they become available, if necessary.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application.

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If any fees not submitted herewith are required for the filing of this response, including any fee for an extension of time for which Applicant hereby petitions, please charge all such necessary fees to Applicants' Deposit Account No. 500329.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: Sept. 09, 2002 By: Keith D. Hutchinson

Keith D. Hutchinson
Reg. No. 43,687
Agent for Agouron Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

0121-0005

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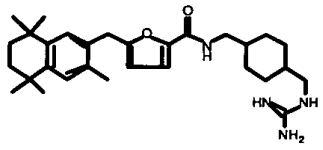
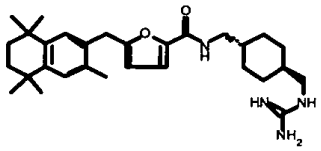
MARKED UP VERSION SHOWING CHANGES MADE TO CLAIMS:

1. A compound having a formula selected from the group consisting of:

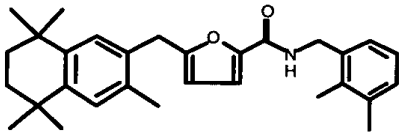


and



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt[, multimer, prodrug, or active metabolite] thereof.

2. A compound having a formula selected from the group consisting of:



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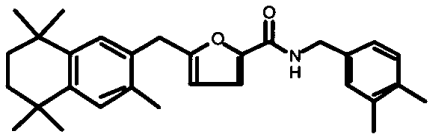

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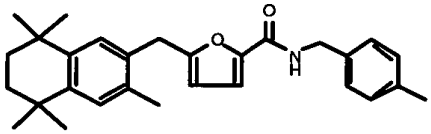
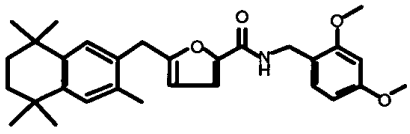
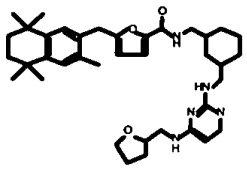


and



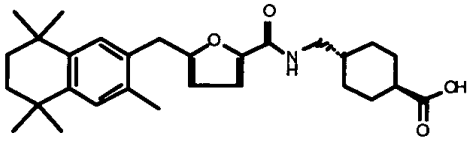
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt[, multimer, prodrug, or active metabolite] thereof.

3. A compound having the formula:

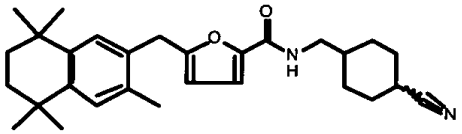


or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt[, multimer, prodrug, or active metabolite] thereof.

4. A compound having a formula selected from the group consisting of:

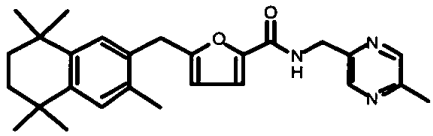


and



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt[, multimer, prodrug, or active metabolite] thereof.

5. A compound having the formula:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt[, multimer, prodrug, or active metabolite] thereof.

6. A compound having a formula selected from the group consisting of:

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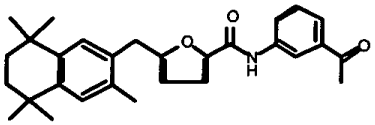
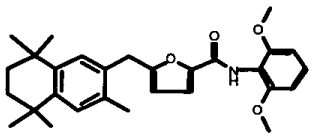


and



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt[, multimer, prodrug, or active metabolite] thereof.

7. A pharmaceutical composition comprising: a therapeutically effective amount of a compound[,] or pharmaceutically acceptable salt[, multimer, prodrug, or active metabolite] thereof as defined in any one of claims 1-6; and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

8. A method for regulating the secretion of gonadotropins in mammals, comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound[,] or pharmaceutically acceptable salt[, multimer, prodrug, or active metabolite] thereof as defined in any one of claims 1-6.

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